GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services - Forest Department – Disciplinary action against Sri P.Katanna, Dy.Range Officer formerly Dhone Range of Kurnool Circle – Inquiry finalized and findings received – Imposition of penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of (1) year besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.2,47,660 against the retired charged officer - Show-Cause-Notice issued – Explanation received – Final orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 59 Dated: 10-06-2016
Read the following:

1. From the PCCF Lr. RC.No.40046/2004/K1, dt. 02.03.2007.
2. Govt. Memo. No. 1991/For.IV/A2/2007, dt. 28.05.2013.
3. From the PCCF, Lr. Rc. No. 40046/2003/Vig-2, dt.17.09.2014.
4. Govt. Memo. No. 1991/For.IV/A2/2007, dt. 5.1.2015.
5. From the PCCF, Lr. Rc. No. 40046/2003/Vig-2, dt.18.10.2015.
6. Govt. Memo. No. 1991/For.IV/A2/2007, dt. 20.02.2016.
7. Representation of Sri P. Katanna, Dy.Range Officer, dt:15.03.2016.
8. Govt. Memo. No. 1991/For.IV/A2/2007, dt. 24.03.2016.
9. From the PCCF, A.P., Hyd, Lr.No.40046/2003/A&DC-1, dt:06.04.2016.
10. Govt.Lr.No.1991/For.IV/A2/2007, dt:18.04.2016.
11. From the Secretary, APPSC, Lr.No.294/DC&C/2/2016, Dt.12.05.2016.

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ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P., Hyderabad has informed that the Conservator of Forests (vig-II), O/o Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad along with Divisional Forest Officer (vig-II) have inspected the works executed by Sri P.Katanna, formerly Dy.Range Officer of Banaganapalli Section in Owk Beat (of Banaganapalli Section of Dhone Range) executed during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 under RIDF-VII-SMC and SRBC CAT EMP. On random verification of the RFDs and check dams on 18.9.2003, it was observed that no numbering of RFDs constructed during 2001-02 was found. It is observed that they got mixed up with other works, which resulted in double charging of check dams constructed under RIDF-VII-SMC during 2002-03. For such irregularities noticed against the Dy.Range Officer an Article of Charge was issued by the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool vide Rc No.7740/2003/M3 dt.16.6.2005 on the following count.

Article:- "Gross neglect of duty by not recording the works particulars in the M.Books properly, and booking irregular and excess expenditure in construction of RFDs under RIDF-VII-SMC during 2002-03 in Owk Beat, Banaganapalli Section of Dhone Range without executing the works in the field, which resulted in loss of Government funds to a tune of Rs.2,47,660/-".

2. The Charged Officer received the Article of Charge and failed to submit his defence explanation within the time limit. Hence, the C.F., Kurnool Rc No.7740/2003/M3 dt.11.8.2005, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool has been appointed as Inquiry Officer. However, the Charged Officer has submitted his explanation on 27.6.2006 and denied the charge framed against him.

3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool has conducted the enquiry and furnished the findings to the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool vide Divisional Forest Officer,

Kurnool Rc No.4521/2003/H3, dt.29.11.2006 concluding that the charge levelled against the Charged Officer is proved.

4. The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests in his letter dt:17.09.2014 has stated that the report of the Inquiry Officer has been communicated to the Charged Officer and the Charged Officer has acknowledged the final notice on 27.06.2013. The Charged officer has submitted his further defence statement on 21.10.2013. No new points have been put-forth by him and he has mainly about the delay in taking up the matter for investigation and enquiry.

5. The charge of gross neglect of duty by not recording the work particulars in the M.Books properly and booking irregular excess expenditure in construction of RFDs under RIDF-VII-SMC during 2002-03 in Owk Beat, Banagannapalli Section of Dhone Range without executing the works in the field which resulted in loss of Government funds to a tune of Rs.2,47,660/-, is proved against Sri P. Katanna, Deputy Range Officer.

6. Since the Charged Officer retired from service on 30.06.2006, on attaining the age of superannuation, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of AP Revised pension Rules, 1980.

7. After careful examination of the matter, with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer, the remarks of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, and material made available, Government have provisionally decided to impose a penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of (1) one year besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.2,47,660/- against the Charged Officer Sri P.Katanna, formerly DRO of Banaganapalli Section in Owk Beat under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. Accordingly, a Show-Cause- Notice was issued to the retired officer vide reference 6th read above. The Retired Officer has submitted his explanation to the Show-Cause- Notice through the reference 9th cited wherein he has not put forth any new/fresh points.

9. Government, after careful examination of the matter hereby order to impose a penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of (1) one year besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.2,47,660/- against the Charged Officer Sri P. Katanna, formerly DRO of Banaganapalli Section in Owk Beat under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad is directed to take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

ASHWINI KUMAR PARIDA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh,
Hyderabad.
The Individual (through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).
Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Hyderabad, A.P.
The Prl. Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Hyderabad
(with ref. to Lr.No.294/DC&C/2/2016, Dt.12.05.2016).
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER